

The Washington Times

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1904.

SALE OF CANAL STILL DELAYED

Mr. Vandiver Holds Up Decision One Week

HOW THE BOARD WOULD VOTE

Reasons Advanced by the State Treasurer Why Both Bids Should Be Rejected.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 15.—The State board of public works at a meeting held yesterday took up the question of the sale of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

For this interest there have been two bids, one of \$155,000 by F. S. Landstreet, vice president of the Western Railroad, and one of \$151,000 by J. H. Wheelwright, vice president of the Consolidation Coal Company.

The purpose of the meeting was to decide between these two bids for the State's holdings. All the parties concerned were present.

Those at the Meeting.

Shortly after 2 o'clock Governor Warfield, State Comptroller Atkinson, and State Treasurer Vandiver went into Governor Warfield's private office and announced that they were ready to take up the proposition for the purchase of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Morris C. Menges, of New York, was present, having entered the room behind Mr. Landstreet, and J. Walter Lord, who represents Mr. Wheelwright. James Owens, of the Annapolis bar, was also present.

Governor Warfield announced the purpose of the meeting and asked if anyone desired to speak for or against the sale of the State's property.

Mr. Owens informed the board that he had received a message from Frank R. Biedler, requesting delay in the proceedings in order that a larger offering for the canal might be made.

Mr. Lord spoke in behalf of J. H. Wheelwright and the bid of \$151,000. He declared it was the purpose of his clients to repair the canal, build better terminal facilities and maintain it as a waterway.

Mr. Landstreet presented the case of the Western Maryland Railroad. He reviewed the history of the purchase of the railroad by the Washash people, and directed attention to the obstacle to the plans of the railroad found in a strip of territory bordering upon the waterway. He urged prompt action by

His Odd Insect Pets Drove Wife to Divorce

She Says Husband Housed Tarantulas, Centipedes, and Scorpions in Their Bedroom—They Often Got Loose.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—Mrs. Fannie D. Welsh, according to her testimony before Judge Dennis in the superior court, was driven to divorce proceedings by tarantulas, centipedes, scorpions and other unpleasant creatures.

Her husband, James Welsh, who is a lieutenant in the United States army, chief draughtsman in the Ordnance Department, a naturalist of great learning and tireless ambition, was, Mrs. Welsh declared, forever bringing home the deadly insects, and insisted on housing them in the room in which they slept.

the board, in order that the purposes of the Washash system may be carried out without further delay.

Question of Taxation.

The fact was announced to the board that the stock of the canal company would exempt from taxation any structures which might be erected on the property. This was made known to the bidder, and the matter was discussed.

The board decided to reserve its decision until next Thursday, in order to obtain an opinion from the attorney general of the State on the subject raised by Mr. Vandiver.

In a statement made after the meeting Governor Warfield said:

"I am in favor of disposing of the State's interest to the highest bidder. The point raised by General Vandiver is one which we must investigate."

Mr. Atkinson's View.

Comptroller Atkinson said:

"I would have voted for the sale of the State's holdings to the highest bidder, and if the question raised by Mr. Vandiver is satisfactorily adjusted in which the State is fully protected, I shall still vote for the acceptance of Mr. Landstreet's bid."

Mr. Vandiver said:

"I have very carefully considered the two bids made for the purchase of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and have reached the conclusion that it is not for the best interests of the State to accept either of the bids."

Mr. Vandiver's reasons are that the highest bid is far below the value of the canal, and the State should wait until 1906 when the control of the bondholders of 1841 will cease by order of the court.

She declared the creatures would frequently escape during the night, and Lieutenant Welsh would make her aid in the search for his pets.

At last her nerves gave way under the error that robbed her of sleep, and she left Texas, where all these things occurred, to try to recover her health.

The present proceedings were brought by Lieutenant Welsh for a modification of the decree to permit him to see his five-year-old daughter, each each month. The order was made, and the father and daughter are to meet in the mother's presence.

SONS OF JONADABS TO HOLD ALL NIGHT WATCH SERVICE

Interest is manifest in local temperance circles by the many organizations affiliated with the Independent Order, Sons of Jonadab, in the coming gathering to be held under the auspices of that body at a grand all night watch service.

The service will commence early on New Year eve and continue for twenty-four hours, during which period there will be music, songs, speechmaking and refreshments. Each of the councils, including the ladies of the order, will participate and invitations are now being sent out for this event.

The matter of details was arranged at a largely attended meeting of Unity Council last night, M. J. O'Dea, presiding, with Joseph T. Farr as secretary. Visitors from all of the other councils of the organizations were present.

Alpha Council, Daughters of Jonadab, will give a complimentary social in their hall on December 27, entertaining Hope, Unity and Georgetown Councils. The gathering will review the work accomplished by the Jonadabs for the year of 1904.

ARE WE ELECTRICITY?

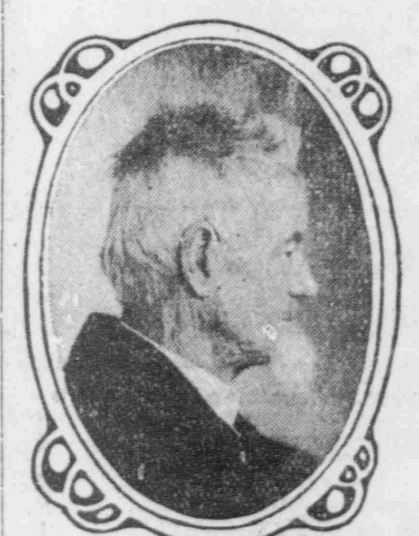
The Times will tell next Sunday of the remarkable discovery that the body of a man is nothing but particles of electricity, held together by natural laws.

WORLD'S OLDEST HABITUAL THIEF

Claim of Prisoner, Who Says He's 104 Years Old.

DR. MARY WALKER'S BROTHER

Wants a Jury Trial and Must Stay in Jail Over Christmas to Get It.



SAYS HE'S 104 YEARS OLD.
George A. Walker, Known to the Police as the "Oldest Thief."

Remanded to jail to await a hearing on a charge of false pretenses, George A. Walker, who claims to be a brother of Dr. Mary Walker, and says he is 104 years old, spent last night on a cold iron bench and awoke this morning refreshed.

He said he was used to the prison fare he received and would just as leave sleep on a bench with iron slats to it as on a feather bed.

He was given a breakfast of corn-bread, bacon, and coffee in a tin cup. He quickly devoured the supply and asked for something to smoke, which he did not get.

Walker says he is a graduate of Oxford University, England. He has an English accent, dropping an "H" now

President Castro Is Fortifying La Guaira

Venezuela Executive Having Large-Caliber Guns Mounted—Attempt to Capture Montilla—Concession for a Monte Carlo.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 15.—President Castro is placing in the battery at La Guaira the big-caliber guns lately bought from the French firm of Crousot.

It is reported that \$1,000,000 worth of goods and ammunition have been lately landed here.

Soldiers and sailors are working day and night to mount the guns. This work is not easy for them, as they seem to understand nothing about the handling of them. French non-commissioned officers have been sent to direct the work.

They say they have received orders from the Crousot firm to leave Venezuela at once if a demonstration of foreign powers should take place while they are here.

Four guns of 7-inch caliber have already been mounted at La Guaira in a position commanding the harbor. The presence of English naval officers inspecting La Guaira has been reported. The German officers have also visited La Guaira and Caracas incognito.

The Venezuela government, notwithstanding its denial, knowing that the existence of the Montilla revolt was known abroad, sent 1,500 men to capture him at any cost. But Montilla was so entrenched at Guatito, state of Lara, that

and then, but never anything that he can get his hands on, so the police say.

According to the police the man is educated and shows signs of having been in better circumstances in days gone by. He is of medium height, thin and wrinkled. As a conversationalist he has but few peers. This accomplishment is his chief resource.

Several days ago he sold to a Teath street merchant, it is charged, four pounds of pure, unadulterated coal dust for dye. The coloring matter was to be sold for 50 cents a pound. One package contained what the self-styled centurion claimed it had in it, and the others contained coal dust.

One dollar and ninety-two cents was paid over by the merchant. He complained to the police, who arrested Walker.

At Police Headquarters Walker divined his time between telling of some of his prize thefts committed throughout a criminal career covering ninety-seven years, and quoting Blackstone and other authorities on law.

When arraigned in the Police Court on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses he pleaded not guilty and demanded a jury trial, for which he will probably have to wait until two or three weeks after Christmas. He consoled himself with the thought that this is not the first Christmas or New Year day that he spent in jail or the workhouse.

the government troops were unable to capture him.

A concession for a Venezuelan Monte Carlo has been granted to the former owner of the Ostende gambling casino. The concessionaire is Commendatore Cavallia, a former banker of Rome. The concession includes a monopoly of races, track, hotel, and all kinds of gambling. The concessionaire is to pay \$50,000 a year to the city of Caracas. It is reported that outside of this amount large sums have been paid to President Castro and several of his ministers.

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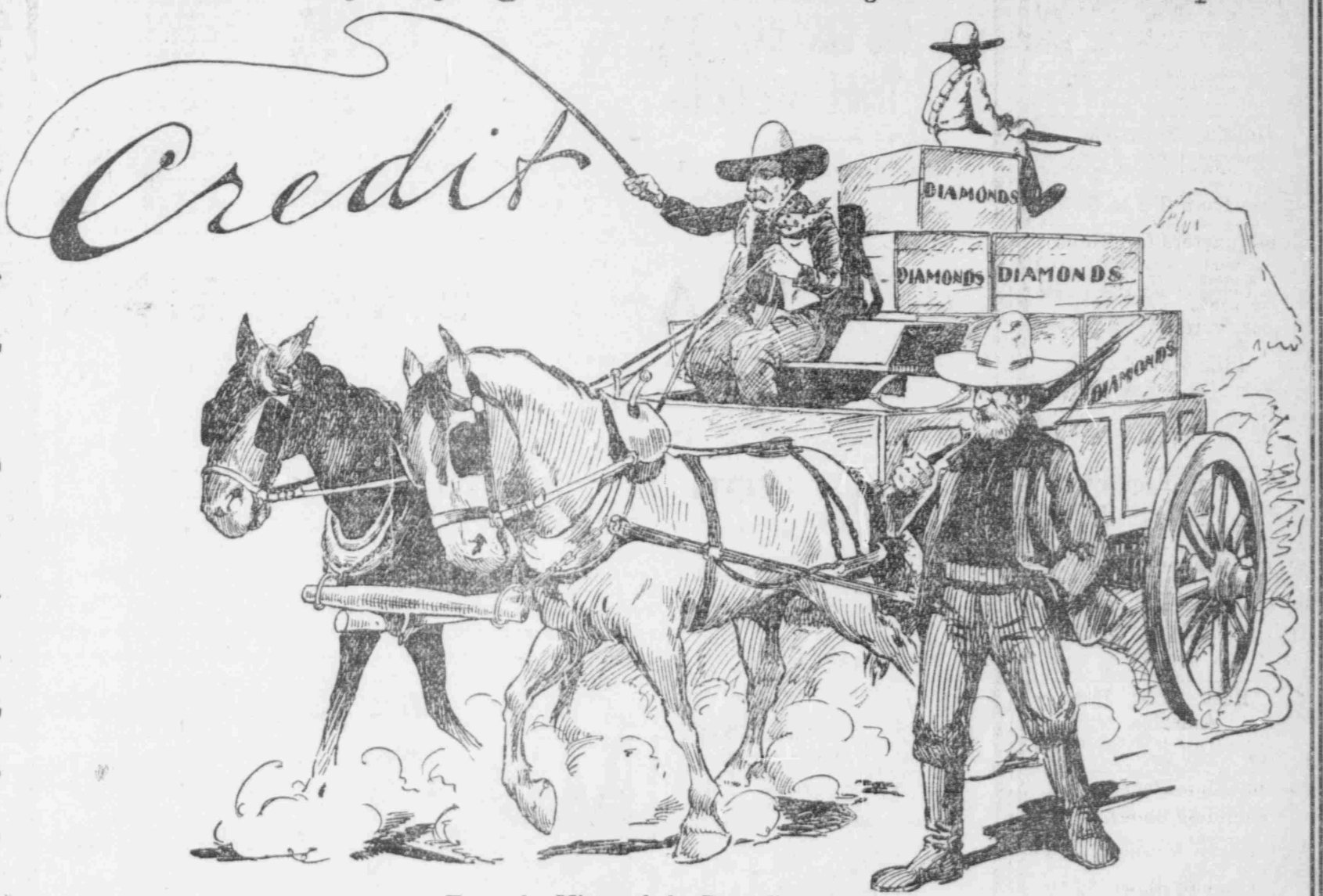
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